

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 SY-04 USSS-00 SCCT-01 /071 W

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P R 232143Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5356

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 6928

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GT

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL ARRESTED, KILLED

REF: A-221

1. SUMMARY. GOVERNMENT FORCES ENGAGED IN HOUR-LONG SHOOT-OUT DECEMBER 20 WITH MEMBERS OF A PGT (COMMUNIST PARTY) GROUP WHO HAD KIDNAPPED WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN ROBERTO GABRIEL ABULARACH. FOLLOWING DAY TORTURED BODY OF PGT SEC GEN HUBERTO ALVARADO ARELLANO WAS DISCOVERED. END SUMMARY.

2. GUATEMALAN BUSINESSMAN ROBERTO GABRIEL ABULARACH WAS RELEASED UNHARMED BY KIDNAPPERS DECEMBER 20 AFTER PAYMENT APPROXIMATELY \$50,000 RANSOM. HOURS LATER, GOVERNMENT FORCES, FOLLOWING LEADS DEVELOPED DURING RANSOM NEGOTIATIONS, ENGAGED IN AN HOUR-LONG SHOOTOUT WITH GROUP OF PGT MEMBERS. PRESS SAID 500 ARMY TROOPS, DOZENS OF POLICEMEN, AND 3 ARMY TANKS SURROUNDED THE ZONE 12 HOUSE WHERE THE KIDNAPPERS HAD BARRICADED THEMSELVES.

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3. PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT 3 PERSONS WERE

CAPTURED, ONE PERSON WAS FOUND DEAD IN HOUSE, AND SEVERAL OTHERS MANAGED ESCAPE AMID HAIL OF POLICE BULLETS.

4. DEAD MAN FOUND AT THE HOUSE WAS IDENTIFIED AS JOSE LUIS DE LEON LOPEZ. THREE PERSONS CAPTURED, ALL WOMEN, HAD APPARENTLY STAYED IN THE HOUSE TO GIVE COVER FIRE FOR THE FLEEING MEN. THEY WERE IDENTIFIED AS MARIA ELENA DE LEON ALVARADO, MARIA DEL CARMEN DUENAS YOC, AND MARIA DEL CARMEN MALDONADO. TWO AMERICAN-MADE FRAGMENTATION GRENADES, RUSSIAN-MADE SUBMACHINE GUN CLIPS, AND PGT LITERATURE WERE FOUND IN THE HOUSE.

5. IT IS AS YET UNCLEAR WHETHER HUBERTO ALVARADO ARELLANO, PGT SECRETARY GENERAL, WAS CAPTURED IN THE HOUSE OR WHETHER HE WAS PICKED UP IN THE POLICE-ARMY DRAGNET THAT FOLLOWED THE SHOOTING. FAMILY MEMBERS TRIED TO SAVE HIM EARLY DECEMBER 22 BY FILING A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION BUT TO NO AVAIL. ALVARADO'S TORTURED BODY WAS FOUND ABOUT NOON DECEMBER 22, 15 FEET OFF THE ANTIGUA-GUATEMALA HIGHWAY.

6. ANOTHER BODY, IDENTIFIED LATER AS THAT OF PGT MEMBER MIGUEL ANTONIO ALVARADO LIMA, WAS ALSO FOUND SATURDAY.

7. FATE OF THE OTHER BUSINESSMAN KIDNAPPED BY THE PGT IN EARLY DECEMBER, ANDRES BOTRAN, IS AS YET UNKNOWN. LA NACION SAID DECEMBER 23 THAT THE GUERRILLAS WERE DEMANDING RELEASE OF "THE THREE MARIAS" IN EXCHANGE FOR BOTRAN.

8. COMMENT: ALVARADO KILLING INDICATES THAT LAUGERUD GOVERNMENT IS NO LESS WILLING THAN ITS PREDECESSOR TO ORDER SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OF PERSONS IT BELIEVES RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORIST ACTION IT CONSIDERS PROVOCATIVE. LITTLE IF ANY EFFORT WAS MADE TO CONCEAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN ALVARADO'S DEATH. ALVARADO'S
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PROBABLE SUCCESSOR AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PGT IS JOAQUIN NOVAL FUENTES. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER UNDER NOVAL'S LEADERSHIP PGT (AND ITS ALLY THE FUERZAS ARMADAS REBELDES) WILL REACT TO GOVERNMENT VICTORY BY LONG ABSTINENCE FROM ACTIVITY, AS IT DID AFTER SEPTEMBER 1972 LOSS OF SIX CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, OR WHETHER IT WILL ATTEMPT RETALIATE AGAINST GOG LEADERS OR OTHER CONVENIENT

TARGETS.
ANDREWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, KIDNAPPING, PARAMILITARY FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba2
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GUATEM06928
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740373-0401
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741215/aaaaamqu.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 A-221
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba2
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07 JUN 2005 by powellba2>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL ARRESTED, KILLED
TAGS: PINS, PINT, GT, (ABULARACH, ROBERTO GABRIEL), (ARELLANO, HUBERTO ALVARADO), (BOTRAN, ANDRES), (LIMA MIGUEL ANTONIO ALVARADO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005